



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 24, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: November 23, 2003
CWP WA-CW4703

Cold Weather and Strong Winds Damage Wheat

Field Crops

Snow fell across many areas of the State mid-week. Cold temperatures, snow and rain made for less than ideal conditions for the harvest of Christmas trees. Cold weather and strong winds caused damage to dryland wheat in Benton County.

Livestock

Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the cold temperatures and snow covered pastures. Pastures were in poor condition as producers brought cattle home for the winter. Producers continued to move calves to market at record high prices.

Fruits and Vegetables

Commercial holly growers were at their peak of harvest, rushing to get heavily berried boughs to market. Few processing carrots were left for harvest, but snow hampered any field activities left to complete.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	2.5
Last Week	4.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	32	41	14
Subsoil	17	39	44	0
Irrigation Water	10	10	80	0
Hay & Roughage	0	6	92	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	98	97	96	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	18	58	21	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	25	75	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Heavy snow and cold weather took many by surprise on Wednesday, November 19.

Clark (2nd Report): The area was surprised by snowfall on Tuesday, November 18. In Brush Prairie and the northern and eastern parts of the county, the snowfall was heavy. Smaller amounts of snow were received in the Kelso/Longview area. Temperatures were cold with frost occurring in most areas throughout the weekend.

Grays Harbor: Heavy rainfall and cold temperatures kept most agricultural producers confined to inside chores with the exception of Christmas tree growers. The heavy rainfall resulted in minor flooding along both the Satsop and Chehalis rivers, with no damage reported. Very cold temperatures during mid-week resulted in a light sprinkling of snow across the rural landscape. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing with some growers predicting the finish of the entire tree harvest for the wholesale market by the end of the month. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the cold temperatures.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Colder than normal weather with areas of snow marked the significant weather events for the week.

Pierce/King: The area received rain, snow and freezing temperatures during the week. Producers from Fife and Kent reported crop damage due to flooding and the freezing temperatures.

Skagit/San Juan: Some freezing temperatures and rain storms were received during the week. No crop damage was reported.

Thurston: Cold temperatures, snow and heavy rainfall made for less than ideal conditions for the harvest of Christmas trees. Both the Chehalis and Nisqually rivers were bank-full with some minor flooding of adjacent farmland. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for cold temperatures and snow covered pastures. Commercial holly growers were at their peak of harvest, as they rushed to get heavily berried boughs to distant markets. Commercial turfgrass growers missed several days of harvest due to snow covered fields.

Central

Benton: Cold weather with strong winds (20-50 mph) caused damage to much of the wheat crop in the dryland area. Some of the fields took a big hit by the wind looking, like sand pits. Precipitation is needed so the winter wheat can be reseeded.

Franklin: Most field activities for annual crops were completed for the season. Carrot and grain corn harvests were complete. Some pruning continued.

Grant: Few processing carrots were left for harvest. Snow on Thursday hampered any field activities left to complete.

Kittitas: Cows were looking very pregnant; calves were gone. Fall fertilization continued on timothy hay fields. Some plowing was still taking place. A couple of light snows changed the scenery a bit.

Klickitat: Recent snow accumulation during the week was welcomed. The precipitation provided soil moisture and insulation for crops. Almost all ranchers were feeding their livestock.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees above normal to 13 degrees below normal, with .01 inch of precipitation.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation and snow during the week maintained moisture and crop conditions. Additional precipitation is needed to improve both moisture and winter wheat conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Rain followed by snow on Thursday, November 20, was a welcome sight to wheat farmers. Wheat fields were virtually covered. Other fall activities for producers included working in their shops and doing paperwork.

Asotin/Garfield: Conditions remained dry. Storms seemed to be staying north of the counties. Moisture from recent storms was disappointing. Windy conditions persisted. Emerging winter wheat may have been damaged by cold weather during the past month. During this same period, record cold temperatures and record high temperatures were set. These large temperature swings, along with the drought and windy conditions, have caused damage to the wheat crop. Some producers have been replanting. Pastures were in poor condition as producers brought cattle home for the winter.

Lincoln: Precipitation during the past week maintained moisture and crop conditions. Additional precipitation is needed to improve conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The first snowstorm of the year was received during the week. Snowfall was welcomed and ranged from 3-12" across the county.

Stevens: Temperatures dipped below the teens during the week. Winter wheat did not have snow cover when temperatures dropped. Cattle producers continued to move calves to market at record prices.

Walla Walla: Cool temperatures with wind and some moisture was received--snow in the higher elevations and rain in the lower elevations.

Whitman: A very active weather week with high winds and rain was followed by cold temperatures and snow by week's end. A shallow blanket of snow covered much of the Palouse. More snow or rain is needed to recharge soil moisture levels.

Whitman (2nd Report): Temperatures moderated with a few rain showers, but meaningful precipitation still remained illusive. Winter wheat stands were in need of some good rainfall before winter sets in. Most operations completed fall fieldwork.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

November 24, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	27	50	38	-5	0	-1	0	0	2.52	1.31	5	12.48	3.34	137	32
Everett	30	49	38	-6	0	-4	0	0	3.43	2.24	5	9.48	0.58	107	32
Hoquiam	29	55	42	-5	2	-5	0	0	4.26	1.75	5	22.23	5.11	130	40
Kelso	25	57	42	-3	4	-3	0	0	1.05	-0.58	3	7.49	-3.61	67	29
Olympia	25	56	39	-3	1	-5	0	0	3.51	1.50	6	17.26	4.63	137	40
Sea-Tac	28	54	40	-5	0	-7	0	0	4.22	2.77	6	14.42	4.94	152	34
Shelton	26	56	40	-5	0	-7	0	0	4.64	2.08	5	25.38	9.54	160	42
Tacoma	27	57	40	-4	1	-3	0	0	3.44	1.96	6	13.91	4.21	143	36
Vancouver	25	59	43	-1	5	-2	0	0	1.97	0.49	6	6.48	-3.05	68	32
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	12	64	34	0	0	-7	0	0	0.15	-0.14	4	0.54	-1.37	28	14
Omak	9	55	31	-1	0	0	0	0	0.01	-0.41	1	1.77	-1.09	62	12
Stampede Pass	17	45	27	-1	0	0	0	0	6.77	3.73	6	27.12	8.12	143	38
Wenatchee	13	60	34	-3	1	1	0	0	0.15	-0.13	3	0.77	-0.91	46	13
Yakima AP	7	67	34	-3	1	-1	0	0	0.02	-0.26	1	0.32	-1.30	20	8
NORTHEAST															
Colville	10	55	34	2	0	0	0	0	0.08	-0.61	2	1.67	-2.68	38	12
Deer Park	-7	55	30	-4	0	0	0	0	0.98	0.32	4	3.89	0.01	100	22
Spokane AP	-5	55	30	-5	0	0	0	0	0.79	0.23	5	2.40	-0.91	73	22
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	8	64	33	-3	1	1	0	0	0.29	0.01	2	0.80	-0.75	52	10
Moses Lake	1	64	34	-3	4	4	0	0	0.36	0.08	3	0.76	-0.79	49	11
Quincy	6	66	36	0	4	0	0	0	0.15	-0.13	1	0.54	-1.20	31	8
Ritzville	2	58	31	-5	2	-3	0	0	0.52	0.10	3	1.35	-1.19	53	12
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	13	68	38	-3	6	-1	0	0	0.13	-0.14	2	0.57	-0.90	39	7
Pasco	16	69	41	1	14	7	0	0	0.10	-0.18	1	0.60	-1.08	36	10
Pullman	3	59	33	-3	0	0	0	0	0.77	0.11	6	3.30	-1.10	75	22
Whitman Miss.	18	68	43	3	11	4	0	0	0.32	-0.12	3	2.02	-1.04	66	15
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	9	55	34	-4	3	3	0	0	0.51	-0.33	3	3.76	-1.50	71	19
Lewiston ID	20	66	43	4	10	10	0	0	0.07	-0.21	3	1.46	-1.09	57	13

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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